

Appl. No. 10/536,977
AMENDMENT dated July 1, 2009
Reply to Office Action of April 1, 2009

Amendment to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 6, 7, and 8. These sheets, which include Figures 6 through 10, replace the Substituted Sheet including Figures 6 and 7 and the Original Sheet including Figures 8 through 10. In Figures 6, 7, and 8, misidentified element 10 is re-numbered as element "110."

No new matter is added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

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REMARKS/ARGUMENT

The Applicants respond under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 to the Office Action of April 1, 2009.

Claims 52 through 76 are pending in the application. Claims 58, 60, 68, and 76 are amended by this response.

No fee is due.

1. Amendment to the Drawings

Figures 6, 7, and 8 and two paragraphs appearing on pages 10 and 11 of the specification are amended to correct the duplicate use of the element “10.” The “squeezing pump” is now identified as element “110.” This objection is believed to be moot.

2. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejects claims 60, 68, and 76 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, as being dependent upon deleted claims. The dependencies are corrected. This rejection is believed to be moot.

3. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejects claims 52 through 59, 62 through 64, and 66 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by PCT Publication Number WO 00/03944 to Timp. The Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

The Timp disclosure (WO 00/03944) does not disclose a tap adaptor having all the features as claimed in claim 52. If the Timp publication is considered on page 21 of WO

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00/03944 at lines 16 through 34 to discloses a tap adaptor, including a hollow arm, the hollow arm in the cover is provided to be a connection for compressed air i.e. for pressurizing means.

According to the invention, the hollow arm is adapted for releasably mounting in sealed relation with the valve assembly in fluid flow communication with the first valve. The structure of the hollow arm dispenses the beverage as is recited in claim 52.

The Examiner refers to Figures 1 and 2 as relating to beverage dispensing. However, these figures do not relate to beverage dispensing while Figures 4 and 14 do.

Also, the tap adaptor having as reference number 116 in document WO 00/03944 does not present the elements of claim 52 because the hollow arm 116 is not separable to receive an interchangeable dispensing tube being a tubular cartridge for interconnecting the tap with the first valve and through which the beverage is dispensed. For this reason, the Timp disclosure of WO 00/03944 does not anticipate the claimed invention.

There is no other objection relating to claim 52. Therefore, this claim is believed by the Applicants to be novel as well as unobvious. The remaining claims depend upon claim 52 and are also believed to be novel and unobvious. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

4. Rejection of Claims 61 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 61 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over PCT Publication Number WO 00/03944 to Timp in view of French Patent Number 2 778 959 to Boudier. The Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

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The Timp disclosure with or without the Boudier disclosure does not disclose or make obvious the claimed structure of a hollow arm, that is adapted for releasably mounting in sealed relation with the valve assembly in fluid flow communication with the first valve. Claim 52 requires that the structure of the hollow arm dispenses the beverage. Also, the combined disclosures do not make obvious the elements of claim 52, 61, or 65 in that the hollow arm 116 is not separable to receive an interchangeable dispensing tube being a tubular cartridge for interconnecting the tap with the first valve and through which the beverage is dispensed. For this reason, the Timp disclosure in view of the Boudier disclosure does not make obvious the claimed invention. This rejection should be withdrawn.

5. Rejection of Claims 67, 69, and 73 through 75 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 67, 69, and 73 through 75 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over PCT Publication Number WO 00/03944 to Timp in view of British Patent Number 1 274 075 to Burdett. The Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

Again, the Timp disclosure with or without the Burdett disclosure does not disclose or make obvious the claimed structure of a hollow arm, that is adapted for releasably mounting in sealed relation with the valve assembly in fluid flow communication with the first valve or that the hollow arm dispenses the beverage. The combined disclosures do not make obvious the elements of claim 52, 67, 69, or 73 through 75. For this reason, the Timp

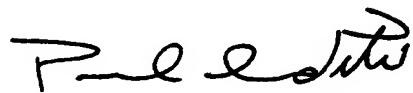
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disclosure in view of the Burdett disclosure does not make obvious the claimed invention.

This rejection should be withdrawn.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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